


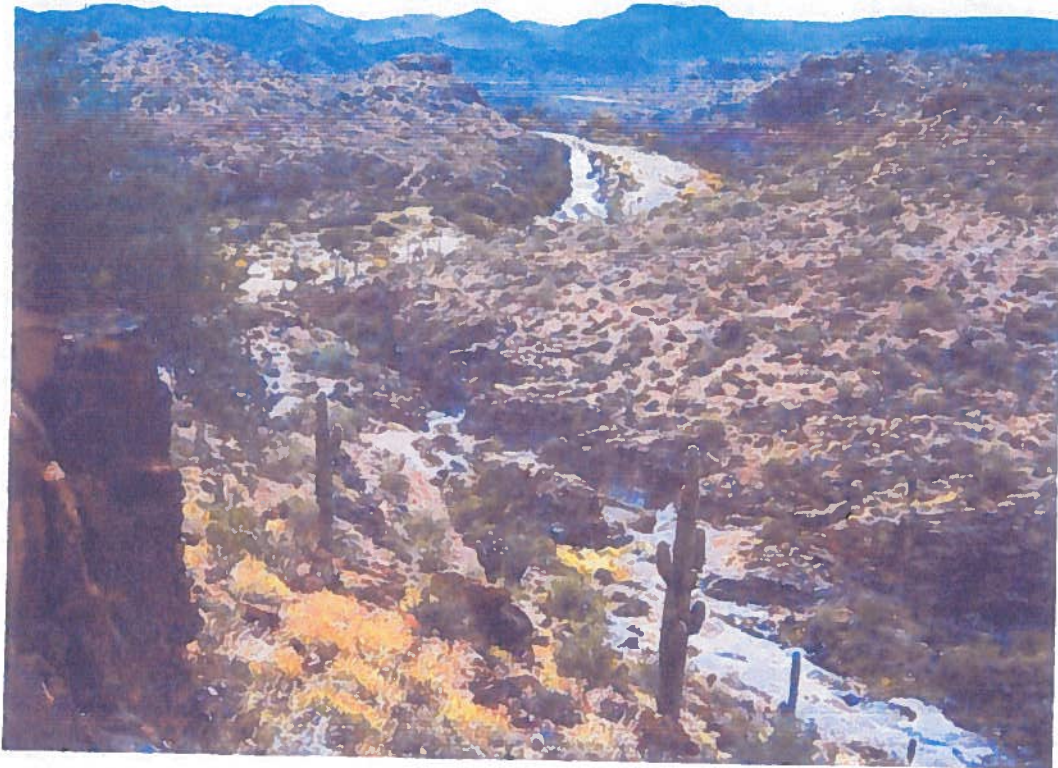


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ARIZONA STATE OFFICE EVALUATION REPORT TITLE PAGE		Date: August 2015
Title/Subject: Agua Fria National Monument and Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan Evaluation		
Type of Evaluation: Periodic		
Date Conducted: April, 2015		
Conducted By: BLM, Agua Fria National Monument and Hassayampa Field Offices and Arizona State Office		
TEAM MEMBERS		
NAME	TITLE	
Gloria Tibbetts	District Planning & Environmental Coordinator Phoenix District Office	
Thomas Bickauskas	Acting District Planning & Environmental Coordinator Phoenix District Office	
Jackie Neckels	State Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Arizona State Office	
Submitted by: Rem Hawes, Manager, Hassayampa Field Office	Signature 	Date 8/27/2015
Submitted by: Amanda James, Manager, Agua Fria National Monument	Signature 	Date 8/27/2015
Approved by: June Shoemaker, Acting Arizona Deputy State Director for Renewable Resources and Planning	Signature 	Date 8/31/15

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
21605 North 7TH Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027**

**Resource Management Plan Evaluation Report
Bradshaw-Harquahala and Agua Fria National Monument Planning Areas**



August 2015

Prepared by Thomas Bickauskas and Gloria Tibbetts

The Resource Management Plans and decisions for the Bradshaw-Harquahala and Agua Fria National Monument are required to undergo a detailed review every five years, as required by federal regulation. This report is the first five-year review and presents issues with the current decisions and recommends plan maintenance actions and plan amendment actions. The content has been prepared by a team of planning specialists with data gathered from resource specialists and management.

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	1
PURPOSE.....	1
CONDUCT OF EVALUATION AND REVIEW	1
SURVEY AND INTERVIEW QUESTIONS	2
II. RESULTS BY RESOURCE	2
ISSUES DISCUSSION FOR BRADSHAW-HARQUAHALA RMP	2
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	2
CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	3
FIRE MANAGEMENT	3
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT.....	3
MINERAL RESOURCES	5
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	5
RANGELAND MANAGEMENT	5
RECREATION MANAGEMENT	6
SOIL, AIR, AND WATER RESOURCES.....	6
SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	6
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT	6
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.....	7
WILD BURRO MANAGEMENT	8
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	8
ISSUES DISCUSSION FOR AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT.....	8
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	8
CULTURAL RESOURCES.....	9
FIRE MANAGEMENT	9
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT.....	9
MINERAL RESOURCES	10
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	10
RANGELAND MANAGEMENT	10
RECREATION MANAGEMENT	10
SOIL, AIR, AND WATER RESOURCES.....	11

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS.....	11
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT	11
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	11
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS	11
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLAN MAINTENANCE AND PLAN AMENDMENTS	12
Table 1 Plan Maintenance Recommendations	12
Table 2 Plan Amendment Recommendations.....	14
III. RELEVANCE OF EXISTING DECISIONS AFTER FIVE YEARS	16
APPENDIX A – SCHEDULE OF STAFF INTERVIEWS	17
APPENDIX B – CULTURAL RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS PROPOSED CHANGES	18
APPENDIX C – RIPARIAN REPORTS FOR BRADSHAW-HARQUAHALA AND AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT RMPs	19

I. INTRODUCTION

On April 22, 2010, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) signed the Records of Decision (ROD) for the Bradshaw-Harquahala (B-H) and Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) Resource Management Plans (RMP). The BLM prepared one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support the two RMPs, which provide management direction for 896,100 acres in the Hassayampa Field Office and 70,980 acres in Agua Fria National Monument. These two new RMPs replaced a patchwork of aging management plans including the Phoenix RMP (1998), the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (1983) and the Approved Amendment to the Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan (2005).

The AFNM was established on January 11, 2000, by Presidential Proclamation 7263. The monument was established to ensure protection of an extraordinary array of scientific and historic resources. As described in the proclamation, the monument contains one of the most significant systems of late prehistoric sites in the American southwest and at least 450 historic sites and four major settlements are known.

PURPOSE

BLM planning regulations require a five-year evaluation of land use plans and environmental review procedures to determine the status of ongoing plan implementation, conformance and monitoring (43 CFR 1610.4-.9). The BLM planning handbook (H-1601-1, V.B) states:

"Evaluation is the process of reviewing the land use plan and the periodic plan monitoring reports to determine whether the land use plan decisions and NEPA analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented. Land use plans are evaluated to determine if: (1) decisions remain relevant to current issues; (2) decisions are effective in achieving (or making progress toward achieving) desired outcomes; (3) any decisions need to be revised; (4) any decisions need to be dropped from consideration; and (5) any areas require new decisions. The plan should be periodically evaluated (at a minimum every 5 years) as documented in an evaluation schedule."

This report is the first evaluation for these RMPs to fulfill the BLM's duty under 43 CFR 1610.4-9.

The Hassayampa Field Manager and Agua Fria National Monument Manager seek to use this plan evaluation in four ways: 1) to test the effectiveness of field office-level tracking systems; 2) to establish a baseline for the 10-year evaluation; 3) to determine if plan maintenance or a plan amendments are needed and 4) to develop communication materials for use in budgeting and to identify areas for potential partnerships to spur the implementation process.

CONDUCT OF EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The HFO/AFNM evaluation team was composed of Gloria Tibbetts, Phoenix District Planning and Environmental Coordinator (P&EC), Thomas Bickauskas, Acting Phoenix District P&EC, and Jackie Neckels, Arizona State Office (ASO) P&EC. Administrative support was provided by James Ingram. The team met several times throughout FY15. Questionnaires were developed by Jackie Neckels and Gloria Tibbetts. Questionnaires were distributed and follow up staff interviews were completed by Thomas Bickauskas and Jackie Neckels. Appendix A contains a schedule and list of participants for the resource programs represented.

SURVEY AND INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Prior to conducting interviews, questionnaires were emailed to resource specialists and managers who work with the RMPs being evaluated. Questions were both general and specific based on the nature of each resource. The questions addressed the topics outlined in H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook, Section V.B.1.

II. RESULTS BY RESOURCE

The Records of Decision and Approved RMPs for each planning area were thoroughly reviewed by the program specialists and their findings were documented in responses to the questionnaires. Most of the decisions are still valid and, in most cases, staff and funding availability are the primary limiting factors to full implementation. The RMP decisions still, as a whole, represent the management direction of the Hassayampa Field Office and Agua Fria National Monument.

The results of the evaluation are organized below by resource as they appear in the RMPs and separated for the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP and the Agua Fria National Monument RMP. The issues raised by program specialists are discussed within this section. Recommendations for plan maintenance and plan amendments are displayed in Tables 1 and 2.

ISSUES DISCUSSION FOR BRADSHAW-HARQUAHALA RMP

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Special Status Species

Multiple plan decisions for threatened and endangered species are contained within the RMP and remain valid. Since the RMP was completed, three new species have been listed, two as threatened (yellow billed cuckoo, northern Mexican garter snake) and one as endangered (Fickeisen plains cactus). All three species have had critical habitat proposed within the planning area. The yellow billed cuckoo, the northern Mexican garter snake and Fickeisen plains cactus require Section 7 consultation and a new Biological Opinion.

A new Candidate Conservation Agreement for desert tortoise, completed in May 2015, enacted new protections for tortoise and its habitat. Management actions should be created, or adjusted, to implement the new agreement where necessary.

Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries decisions provide the necessary checks and balances to other programs' actions. The decisions offer multiple avenues for improving or protecting wildlife and fisheries. The current decisions are still valid; however, the RMP lacks management actions regarding migratory birds and eagles. The Acts that direct protection of these birds should be recognized in the RMP. Lower Sonoran RMP decision WL-9 and its sub-actions direct the avoidance of take of migratory birds and specifically recognizes Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Executive Order 13186 and a BLM- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) memorandum of understanding. Bald and golden eagle management actions, to implement the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, are not included and should be added. Other LSFO RMP management actions, specifically WL-10-1 and WL-10-1.1 direct management of activities that could affect raptor nest production, and should be included in this RMP to better protect raptors.

Vegetation and Riparian Management

The RMP contains guidance on managing vegetation and riparian areas. Much emphasis is placed on improving the health of the resources where it has been degraded. The decisions are sufficiently written and have been used to improve conditions since 2010.

Hobby botanists must currently seek a research collection permit under the current RMP decision VM-12. This seems overly restrictive and could be modified to allow limited plant collection under casual use.

Appendix C contains the riparian condition reports for the Bradshaw-Harquahala planning area and Agua Fria National Monument. BLM Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2010-101 provides guidance on using the riparian condition as the selected indicator of RMP implementation effectiveness, augmenting the plan evaluation process. The spreadsheets were completed by appropriate field office staff with review and concurrence by the Field Manager, Monument Manager, and the Arizona State Office riparian lead.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The decisions for the cultural resource program are being implemented. The use of Special Cultural Resource Management Area allocation has provided cultural resources with an additional layer of administrative protection. Historic and archeological protection laws still provide the bulk of protections. The 2014 BLM Arizona State Protocol Agreement between BLM and the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was completed and established a new consultation policy.

Some sites listed as Allocated to Public Use for Interpretive Development are deteriorating, have seen impacts through vandalism, and/or are not yet interpreted. A list of identified sites can be found in Appendix B and changes to some of the allocations are recommended.

New discoveries of important historical resources have been made in areas such as Continental Mountain and the Vulture Mine. These sites could be allocated for public use for interpretive development as a method to protect the resources. Conditions are constantly changing and restricting the allocations to Conservation for Future Use or Scientific Use on specific sites may help to better protect them. Vulture Mine school houses, Smithsonian Solar Observatory, and Weaver Cemetery are examples of areas where conditions have changed and reconsideration of allocations should occur.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The management actions in the ROD are still valid and are being implemented. The current program direction provides for continued public safety. The geographic areas identified for use of fire are still valid with one exception. The Candidate Conservation Agreement for Desert Tortoise directs immediate and full suppression of wildfire in tortoise habitat. This limits the range of options currently available within areas designated for Fire Use on Map 7 *Fire Use Allocation Map*. This is a topic where clarity could be improved, or specific decisions adjusted or created to amend available options where appropriate. Additionally, the fire management allocations shown on Map 7 do not provide enough detail at the current scale. Adding more detailed maps would allow for easier interpretation by resource management and fire personnel while determining the optimal response to wildfires and other emergency events.

LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT

This program has strong direction from the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and federal regulations. Most actions taken by this program are in response to applications. Therefore, not

all decisions are being implemented at this time, yet they are still valid and necessary.

Since its approval, the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP has been amended by three different projects, which have modified the decisions in the Lands and Realty and Visual Resources sections. The projects are:

- APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV Transmission Line Project and Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan Amendment (2014)
- Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project (2014)
- Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development on the BLM-Administered Lands in Six Southwestern States (AZ, CA, CO, NV, NM, UT)(2012)

Changes to the RMP decisions in several areas would allow for more flexibility to deal with changing conditions and more effective management of isolated and smaller parcels. For example, land disposal is prohibited along the State Route 69 corridor between Mayer and Prescott. There are parcels in this area that remain difficult to manage due to inaccessibility, have existing trespasses, and may benefit local communities and individuals if made available for direct sale or patent under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act authority.

An application for R&PP lease in Vulture Mountains is currently being considered. If a lease is issued, property would be leased for 25 years, then be eligible for patent if consistent with the RMP. The disposal list in the RMP Appendix B would need to be amended to make suitable parcels eligible for disposal.

Vulture Regional Park and target shooting ranges in the Black Canyon or Castle Hot Springs Management Units (MUs) cannot be patented to provide for long-term sustainability of this recreational activity as there are no parcels allocated for disposal. The designation of shooting ranges is not currently within Bureau policy unless land is transferred to an eligible recipient without a reversionary clause. Such disposal actions require that suitable range locations be available for disposal. Identifying such areas would assist in achieving recreation goals and reducing tort risk while improving public safety. Land in the Table Mesa Recreation Area (Black Canyon MU) and Vulture Mountains (Hassayampa MU) have immediate need for consideration.

A transportation corridor was designated on Map 9 *Utility and Transportation Corridors and Communications Sites* and was further described on page 75 under LR-3. This transportation corridor is no longer necessary for its original purpose because the Wickenburg Bypass highway was built in another location and should be considered for removal from the RMP. Removal of this transportation corridor would simplify the management of the area and allow the BLM to reserve itself a right-of-way for a recreation road to serve long distance route connectivity. This road is identified in the Wickenburg Community Travel Management Plan (2014). Coordination with the Arizona Department of Transportation would be necessary to ensure they wish to withdraw their open application for the right-of-way.

There are several instances where designated utility corridors cross established Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, as shown in the map below. Consideration should be given to modifying the allocations to avoid conflicts where possible and advantageous.

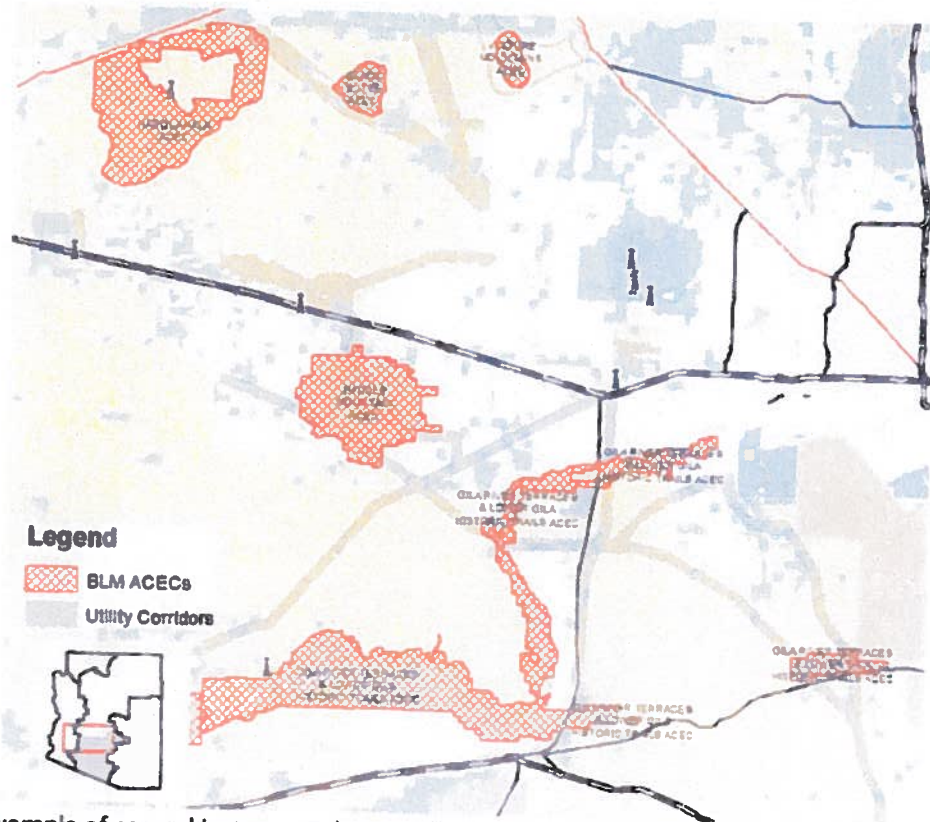


Figure 1 Example of several instances where utility and transportation corridor allocations cross Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

MINERAL RESOURCES

The decisions are still valid and implementable. No issues have been identified and no changes are recommended at this time.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The decisions are still valid and implementable. No issues have been identified and no changes are recommended at this time.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The grazing program's decisions are sufficient to manage the program. Adjustments to time-of-use in riparian areas have caused a subtle shift in management.

Decision GM-4 contains wording that unnecessarily hampers proper rangeland management by locking the BLM specifically to 93 grazing authorizations in HFO. As written, it does not allow for splitting or combining grazing allotments as allowed under 43 CFR 4100. The wording also directly conflicts with GM-7, which allows for modification of allotment boundaries as deemed necessary.

Decision GM-5 is worded in a way that if preference is relinquished at any time on an allotment, no new authorizations would be able to be granted in the future. This needs to be clarified and re-worded to limit new authorizations only on the allotments that did not have authorizations in place at the time the RMP was approved in April 2010, which was the original intent of this decision.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The recreation program decisions are wide-ranging, yet some are very site-specific. Recreation and visitor services management policy has changed since the RMP was completed. The old two tier system for Recreation Management Area (RMA) allocations included Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA). Now a third tier has been included. Public Land Areas Not Otherwise Designated as Recreation Management Areas (Undesignated Lands) are a new allocation intended to recognize areas where recreation occurs, but is not managed to be dominant on the landscape. The RMP should incorporate this new three tier allocation system for recreation resources when a future plan revision or amendment is done.

Recreational shooting under casual use continues to conflict with achieving safe and enjoyable recreation experiences in some areas. New shooting sites have emerged in the Black Canyon and Castle Hot Springs MUs. Planned Recreation Setting Characteristics (RSCs) cannot currently be achieved in the Table Mesa Recreation Management Zone (RMZ) and Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ. The RSCs in SRMAs and RMZs will not be achievable for the foreseeable future unless recreational shooting is sustainably managed. The designation of shooting areas is not currently within Bureau policy. Transferring land to an eligible entity to manage the shooting is not possible unless the land is available for disposal. No land in the Black Canyon or Castle Hot Springs Management Units is available for disposal for the purpose of shooting ranges. Lastly, the RMP could include areas that are closed to target shooting. Areas to study further include BLM land within the City of Phoenix and City of Peoria where open land inside the city limits is currently closed to target shooting.

SOIL, AIR, AND WATER RESOURCES

The decisions are still valid and implementable. No issues have been identified and no changes are recommended at this time.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

The RMP contains three types of special designations and thirty decisions, which are valid and being implemented. Management decisions lack flexibility to meet changing conditions, however, and adaptive management should be considered through implementation-level planning efforts.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The decisions for travel management are being implemented; however, the 3 to 5 year timeframes identified in the RMP are not being met. The timeframes in management actions TM-25, TM-38 and TM-45 should be revised to align with a current planning schedule.

The route inventory for areas without designated routes needs updating. The initial route inventory took place between 1998 and 2004. Some re-inventory has taken place in the Hieroglyphic Mountains area. The inventory should be updated to maintain credibility with the public. In order to recognize the proliferation of new routes, the original route inventory should be identified separately from the new inventory on maps.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use is increasing in proximity to Phoenix. The cities adjacent to BLM lands have curtailed OHV use within their boundaries since 2010 due to a new dust law. As a result, OHV recreationists have been displaced to BLM lands with the effect of increasing conflict, trail creation, and

resource damage. Given the increasing demand and decreasing staffing levels, Limited OHV Area allocations are likely not going to be sufficient over the next 20 years to accommodate the demand for intense use areas. Route proliferation in the Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ and San Domingo RMZ has increased route mileage by 20% since 2003. No areas are allocated for OHV cross-country travel, yet some areas could provide this opportunity. This would provide for and recognize the varying expectations Phoenix urban riders have with regard to easy access to OHV riding. Adding areas for Open OHV area riding could afford an increased range of opportunities resulting in more satisfying outcomes for a subset of motorized recreationists. By providing locations for this niche, the subgroups of motorized users could better realize the benefits from their recreation experience. Open OHV area allocation would reduce the requirement to tightly manage vehicle travel in OHV Limited areas, thus lowering management costs associated with law enforcement. Designating areas outside desert tortoise habitat and riparian habitat that are in compliance with other plan decisions would comply with policy.

Non-motorized cross-country travel is causing resource impacts near Wickenburg. Such trails are becoming interconnected to the point that navigation is difficult. Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) RR-109 and RR-110 do not go into sufficient detail regarding the conditions for non-motorized trail systems, nor when to limit the creation of new, unauthorized trails. More direction, possibly in the form of adaptive management, would provide guidance on when to act. Lower Sonoran RMP's action TM-1.4.3 states "Access to public lands along urban interface areas will be limited to designated legal access routes, as established by travel management planning". Including a similar management decision in the RMP would allow restrictions to trail access via specific portal access routes to be developed in the field.

In the Black Canyon MU, a north-south direction motorized route cannot be effectively planned due the presence of wilderness character allocation. Some members of the public have proposed to connect vehicle routes through a part of the wilderness character allocation for long distance travel by unlicensed vehicles. Adjustment of the wilderness character allocation boundary should be considered. TM-2, a DFC for connecting motorized routes to communities and TM-17 for long distance OHV routes could then be fully implemented in the Black Canyon MU.

The City of Phoenix and City of Peoria have made decisions to direct vehicle travel to those areas outside of air quality Area A. Areas previously open to OHV use within these areas are no longer available. The reason for the shift to BLM land involves the Area A state law and the creation of city ordinances regarding dust generation. City ordinances prohibit the operation of OHVs within city limits in most areas. Current RMP decisions for using motor vehicles on BLM land adjacent to these municipalities and within Area A lack direction and adaptive management triggers for adjusting to higher visitation. The Boulders Staging Area and Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ represent the most urgent situation as visitation increased dramatically between 2006 and 2015.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The management of visual resources attempts to maintain the viewshed on a landscape level. Difficulties arise when plan allocations don't mirror existing conditions or when projects are proposed along the boundaries of more restrictive class allocations. The Class II allocation surrounding the Cow Creek Airstrip in the Castle Hot Springs MU is too strict to allow the significant level of development needed to protect the area's resources. The area lacks terrain relief to shield developments such as toilets, kiosk boards, and large parking areas. Moving the site is not feasible due to pre-existing use and lack of other large, flat areas nearby. Reducing the VRM class allocation surrounding the Airstrip site to Class III seems to fit the topography and the need well.

The visual resource management allocation was amended by the APS Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230kV

Transmission Line Project and Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan Amendment (2014). A downgrade in visual class from VRM III to VRM IV occurred to 3,375 acres along State Route 74.

WILD BURRO MANAGEMENT

All decisions are still valid and implementable. Decision HB-4 incorrectly identifies the enabling legislation for the program as beginning in 1972 when it was enacted in 1971. This is an error and should be corrected through plan maintenance. The appropriate management levels are not being achieved at this time, mainly due to a lack of space at holding facilities while being prepared for adoption. Only limited removal from the herd management areas or herd areas is occurring because of this space limitation.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

The decisions for this program have sufficient depth and provide limits to other programs sufficient to protect wilderness characteristics. The decisions for allocating areas for maintaining wilderness characteristics were hotly contested among the public during planning. Two decisions and an area allocation need review to implement current policy and assist with implementing the travel management program.

Resulting from policy changes for wilderness character allocations, routes are not to be designated, maintained or manipulated within Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) or areas allocated to maintain wilderness character. Policy was set by BLM Manuals 6320 and 1626, thereby precluding maintenance or construction of new roads. Because of this, the decisions WC-9 and WC-10 should have their language updated, or the intent changed to reflect current guidance.

As stated in the Recreation program review, a north-south motorized route in the Black Canyon MU cannot be effectively planned due the presence of wilderness character allocation. Some members of the public have proposed to connect vehicle routes through a part of the wilderness character allocation for long distance travel with unlicensed vehicles. The affected area is located at T8N R2E sections 4, 9 and T9N R2E sections 16, 20, 21, 28, 33. Adjustment of the wilderness character allocation boundary should be considered. TM-2, a DFC for connecting motorized routes to communities, and TM-17, for long distance OHV routes, could then be fully implemented in the Black Canyon MU. Tradeoffs could be made such as closing existing routes within other parts of the allocated area to ensure long-term protection and improvement of its wilderness character.

ISSUES DISCUSSION FOR AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Special Status Species

For the most part, the existing decisions are specific to each species and are of sufficient depth and variety to effectively provide the necessary protection. Two new species have been listed as threatened and critical habitat for both species has been proposed since the AFNM RMP was completed in 2010. The yellow billed cuckoo and northern Mexican garter snake require USFWS consultation and a new Biological Opinion (BO).

Special Recreation Permit requests are increasing and many of the activities involve congregation of large groups within riparian areas, including areas with habitat for threatened and endangered (T&E) species. The RMP provides no direction on how to address this human use of the T&E species habitat.

Wildlife and Fisheries

The RMP lacks management actions regarding migratory birds and eagles. The laws and regulations that direct protection of these birds should be recognized in the RMP. Lower Sonoran RMP decision WL-9 and its sub-actions direct the avoidance of take of migratory birds and specifically recognizes the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Executive Order 13186 and a BLM- USFWS memorandum of understanding. Bald and golden eagle management actions, to implement the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, are not included and should be added. Other LSFO RMP actions, specifically WL-10-1 and WL-10-1.1 and WL-10-1.3 directing management of activities that could affect raptor nest production, could be included in this RMP to better protect raptors.

Vegetation and Riparian Management

The RMP contains guidance on managing vegetation and riparian areas. Much emphasis is placed on improving the health of the resources where they are degraded. The decisions are sufficiently written and have been used to improve conditions since 2010.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The decisions for this resource are being implemented to the extent possible, yet there are changes in visitation, prior existing rights, and the environment which require an adjustment in management. Management actions direct the management of certain archaeological sites by allocation as high use, moderate use, or low use. Increased public use of certain sites has raised concerns for protection and modifications to some of the allocations could assist with addressing the problem. Changes in allocation could also accelerate data collection and documentation of affected sites. Specifically, the following high profile sites may benefit from further consideration of allocations:

- Pueblo La Plata, Fort Silver, Baby Canyon Pueblo, and Pueblo Pato.
- Rock art sites on Black Mesa and along Baby Canyon and Perry Tank Canyon on Perry Mesa.
- The remnants of the historic Richinbar Mine water delivery system in the Agua Fria River Canyon.
- Teskey Home Site (listed as Homestead in RMP)
- 1891 Schoolhouse

Appendix B contains some specific recommendations for the changes to the Cultural Resources section of the RMP. The recommendations were made by a staff archaeologist and forwarded for further review to the Agua Fria National Monument Manager.

The 2014 BLM Arizona State Protocol Agreement between BLM and Arizona SHPO was finalized and now affects the way BLM interacts with the SHPO for cultural resource protection. SOP section 2.9.3 allows for the Agreement and no RMP amendment is necessary.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire management decisions are sufficient to provide the necessary public safety and protection to AFNM resources and objects. Decision VM-6 provides opportunity, on a case-by-case basis, for firewood collection via permit. This provision isn't easy to find and could be cross referenced into this section for easier reference.

LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT

Lands and Realty decisions within the AFNM are mainly protective and aimed at acquiring in-holding

properties. Decision LR-12 states that land use authorizations will be limited to those granted prior to the creation of the Monument. This decision limits the extent to which new land use authorizations can be created. Access to private edge holdings, correction of long-standing access issues, and making new authorizations advantageous to the government are limited by this decision. To the extent possible, an amendment for addressing edge holdings and long-standing access issues should be considered.

One RMP amendment has been completed that affects the AFNM. The amendment created by the EIS for "Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development on the BLM-Administered Lands in Six Southwestern States (AZ, CA, CO, NV, NM, UT)" clarifies that no lands within the AFNM would be available for application for solar development.

MINERAL RESOURCES

The decisions are still valid and implementable. No issues have been identified and no changes are recommended at this time.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The decisions are still valid and implementable. No issues have been identified and no changes are recommended at this time.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing decisions are sufficient to manage this use and only minor changes are needed. Decision GM-4 contains wording that unnecessarily hampers proper rangeland management by locking the BLM specifically to 11 grazing authorizations in AFNM. As written, it does not allow for splitting or combining grazing allotments as allowed under 43 CFR 4100. The wording also conflicts with GM-7, which allows for modification of allotment boundaries as necessary.

Decision GM-5 states that the current direction for grazing in riparian areas is limited to winter season-of-use only. Riparian condition, in some areas, has attained proper functioning condition. Adjusting the season-of-use dates to shorten or lengthen the grazing period is supported by condition trends. Adjusting the decision to allow flexibility of dates could improve the economics of grazing in the Monument. Flexible dates could incentivize a permittee's participation in improving riparian conditions.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Recreation management decisions cover the necessary aspects of proper management. The recreation management area (RMA) allocations form the base of recreation management. The recreation management policy has changed since the RMP was completed in 2010. RMA allocations previously only included Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA). The new policy now includes Public Land Areas Not Otherwise Designated as Recreation Management Areas (Undesignated Lands). The RMP should incorporate this new three tier system for allocating recreation resources when a future plan revision or amendment is done.

The demand for special recreation permits (SRPs) increases yearly. Increased activity at Horseshoe Ranch and on private land along the edge of the AFNM requires that the BLM begin permitting, or denying, recreational use before monument objects are harmed. Approval of SRPs in AFNM would be easier to issue if a programmatic environmental assessment was completed to address use of trails, archaeological sites, and riparian areas. All SRP use should be limited to designated routes only. This would require mapping all known non-motorized trails and designating some as Trail assets.

There is a conflict between GM-6 and RR-28 with regard to allowing developed campgrounds. GM-6 references development of a campground near Badger Springs Wash while RR-28 specifically prohibits creation of a campground. This needs to be reconciled in an RMP revision or amendment.

Geocaching is emerging as an issue as caches have been regularly found at archaeological sites, even though they are already prohibited there. Providing administrative action guidance for the correct placement of caches could help to protect sensitive natural and cultural resources from social trailing and higher numbers of people searching for hidden caches.

SOIL, AIR, AND WATER RESOURCES

The decisions for this program are sufficient, valid and being implemented. No changes are necessary.

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

The decisions for this program are sufficient, valid and being implemented. No changes are necessary.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The RMP's travel management decisions are sufficiently detailed to guide future actions. A Travel Management Plan (TMP) was completed in conjunction with the RMP. No changes to the TMP actions are needed; however, adding designated trails to the plan's non-motorized trail system would assist in managing special recreation permits. Travel management plan designations may be changed without an RMP amendment.

Social trail creation near Badger Springs Pueblo conflicts with the CL-10 Low Use Special Cultural Resource Management Area. This allocation prohibits on-the-ground interpretive development or commercial tours. Designating a trail could help protect the site and surrounding resources; however, designation as a trail asset could lead to degradation if implemented without interpretation. An interpretive plan with tribal consultation would also be needed.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The decisions for this program are being implemented in concert with other programs' actions. The visual class allocations are appropriate and achievable. There are no changes needed at this time.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

This program has good depth in decisions, which allows adequate protection of its resources. The decisions for allocating areas for maintaining wilderness characteristics were hotly contested among the public during planning. Decisions for this program have a strong effect on other programs. Resulting from policy changes for wilderness character allocations, routes are not to be designated, maintained or manipulated within areas allocated to maintain wilderness character. Policy was set by BLM Manuals 6320 and 1626, thereby precluding maintenance or construction of new roads. Because of this, the decisions WC-9 and WC-10 should have their language updated, or the intent changed to reflect current guidance.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLAN MAINTENANCE AND PLAN AMENDMENTS

Table 1 Plan Maintenance Recommendations

	Suggested Method	Applicable RMP
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
Incorporate management actions to protect migratory birds and eagles as described in the issues section.	Maintenance	B-H AFNM
CULTURAL RESOURCES		
Modify Teskey "homestead" to "home site" in CL-8.	Maintenance	AFNM
FIRE MANAGEMENT		
Provide a cross reference to VM-6 to make it easier to recognize firewood collection permit issuance on a case-by-case basis.	Maintenance	AFNM
RANGELAND MANAGEMENT		
Without changing the intent of the decision, clarify wording in GM-4 to remove specific numbers for grazing allotments and authorizations (93 in B-H and 11 in AFNM) and replace with total acreage authorizations similar to Table 2-6 in the Lower Sonoran RMP.	Maintenance	B-H AFNM
Clarify the original intent of GM-5 by rewording to ensure that if preference is relinquished, the authorization can be renewed.	Maintenance	B-H AFNM
RECREATION MANAGEMENT		
Modify the language in RR-20 to clarify the original intent for managing geocaching at archaeological sites and elsewhere on the monument.	Maintenance	AFNM
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT		
The route inventory for the field office should be updated and modified on the maps in the RMP or added as a new map to show new data separately from the original 2010 data.	Maintenance	B-H AFNM
VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
Update the Visual Resource Inventory with the data provided by contractor, OTAK Engineering.	Maintenance	B-H

WILD BURRO MANAGEMENT

Revise HB-4 to show 1971 instead of 1972 as the date of the enabling legislation.	Maintenance	B-H
---	-------------	-----

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Adjust language in WC-9 and WC-10 to align with the current travel management guidance (Manual 1626) to remove engineering solutions in areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.	Maintenance	B-H AFNM
---	-------------	-------------

GENERAL

Revise the acreage of the AFNM to reflect the addition of 80 acres of acquired land. The new acreage should read 70,980 acres.	Maintenance	AFNM
--	-------------	------

Table 2 Plan Amendment Recommendations

	Suggested Method	Applicable RMP
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES		
Consider decisions to limit or apply specific mitigation measures to special recreation permits in riparian areas containing habitat for threatened or endangered species or other essential habitat values.	Amendment	B-H AFNM
Consider revising VM-12, or create a new decision, to allow collection of small amounts of vegetation under casual use.	Amendment	B-H
CULTURAL RESOURCES		
Revise the allocations to sites listed in Appendix B to improve protection and manageability. Consider appropriate allocations for new sites in the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP area, as discussed in the issues section.	Amendment	B-H AFNM
FIRE MANAGEMENT		
Amend Map 7 <i>Fire Land Use Allocation</i> to reflect new restrictions related to the Candidate Conservation Agreement for Desert Tortoise.	Amendment	B-H AFNM
LANDS AND REALTY MANAGEMENT		
Reconsider the list of parcels eligible for disposal to allow land tenure adjustment and resolve various trespass and manageability issues.	Amendment	B-H
Consider amending Map 9 <i>Utility and Transportation Corridors and Communications Sites</i> and the description of the Wickenburg Bypass transportation corridor under L-3 on page 75 to eliminate or modify the allocation.	Amendment	B-H
Investigate and consider allocations for disposal of lands through R&PP or other actions to allow for better management of lands suitable for shooting ranges and county parks.	Amendment	B-H
Consider removing the east-west transportation corridor south of Vulture Peak to allow for further implementation of recreation and wildlife actions.	Amendment	B-H
Reconsider the placement of utility and transportation corridors and/or the boundaries of specially designated areas such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to avoid or minimize existing conflicts.	Amendment	B-H
Consider amending Decision LR-12 to accommodate actions such as permitting access to private edge holdings, correction of long-standing public access issues through BLM-held Rights-of-way, and for improvements that existed prior to monument designation.	Amendment	AFNM

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Consider modifying wording in GM-5 to remove specific dates for riparian grazing to allow more flexibility and incentivize the permittees' participation in improving riparian conditions.	Amendment	AFNM
--	-----------	------

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Modify RR-28 to be consistent with GM-6 and the original intent to allow campgrounds in appropriate areas within the monument.	Amendment	AFNM
Consider addressing adaptive management for recreational target shooting areas to address public safety concerns	Amendment	B-H
Revise the recreation management area (RMA) allocations for consistency with current policy. Updates would include reviewing recreation setting characteristics and polygons. Current policy directs the inclusion of Public Land Areas Not Otherwise Designated as Recreation Management Areas.	Amendment	B-H AFNM

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Reconsider allocations for Open, Limited, and Closed OHV areas. Suggested areas include Hieroglyphic Mountains RMZ, Vulture Mine RMZ and Black Canyon SRMA.	Amendment	B-H
Consider adding a decision related to limiting non-motorized route proliferation similar to the Lower Sonoran RMP's action TM-1.4.3, which states "Access to public lands along urban interface areas will be limited to designated legal access routes, as established by travel management planning."	Amendment	B-H
Decisions TM-25, TM-38 and TM-45 should be revised to eliminate the five year time limitation for completion of travel management plans and modified to align with the current planning schedule.	Amendment	B-H

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Consider revising the VRM class II allocation near Cow Creek Airstrip to allow for easier development of recreation facilities.	Amendment	B-H
---	-----------	-----

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Consider revising the allocation for protecting wilderness characteristics north and west of Black Canyon City to allow for route connectivity.	Amendment	B-H
---	-----------	-----

III. RELEVANCE OF EXISTING DECISIONS AFTER FIVE YEARS

An internal review of the management actions to determine the effectiveness and the implementation status of listing each RMP decision for both the Bradshaw-Harquahala RMP and Agua Fria National Monument was completed while the program specialists were completing the questionnaires. A detailed review was required to accurately respond.

As a part of reviewing the RMP, specialists and managers were asked to provide information on the relevance of the RMP's goals and decision after five years of implementing the plan. Resource programs with well-defined processes and annual work requirements, such as Minerals, Lands and Realty, AML/Hazmat and Grazing Administration, reported that their management actions were still mostly relevant. Although most decisions are still relevant in these base programs, improvements are still needed and certain decisions should be revisited. One good example can be found in the Land and Realty division's identification of LR-36, a decision to retain all lands in the Upper Agua Fria River Basin Management Unit. This is the BLM land corridor along State Route 69 between Cordes Junction and Prescott. While this decision has been implemented by prohibiting any land sales, selective additions to the disposal list seem warranted to best serve the public and the BLM's efficient management. Other programs such as Recreation, Cultural Resources and Wildlife identified specific actions that were insufficient to achieve program goals and were not being implemented. In these cases, plan amendments were recommended.

APPENDIX A – SCHEDULE OF STAFF INTERVIEWS

RMP Evaluation Interview Schedule April 27-28, 2015

Apr 27 (Mon)

Dave Eddy, Minerals (HFO)

Mary Skordinsky/Codey Carter, Special Designations (HFO)

Chris McLaughlin, Cultural Resources, Paleo (HFO / AFNM)

Josh Tibbetts, Fire and Fuels (HFO)

Josh Tibbetts, Fire and Fuels (AFNM)

Rem/ Amanda – Manager evaluation (HFO)

Rem/Amanda – Manager evaluation (AFNM)

Tom Bickauskas/Mary Skordinsky/Penny Foreman– Recreation, Travel, VRM (HFO)

Tom Bickauskas/Mary Skordinsky/Penny Foreman – Recreation, Travel VRM (AFNM)

Apr 28 (Tues)

Roy Draper, AML/Hazmat (HFO/AFNM)

Jim Andersen/Hillary Conner – Lands and Realty (HFO / AFNM)

Jim Andersen/Hillary Conner – Lands and Realty (AFNM)

Steve Bird, WH&B (HFO)

James Holden, Codey Carter – Grazing, Riparian/Veg

Codey Carter - Wildlife/T&E/SSS (HFO)

Casey Addy/Paul Sitzmann, Grazing, Riparian/Veg (AFNM)

Paul Sitzmann, Wildlife/T&E/SSS (AFNM)

(Interviewers: Thomas Bickauskas, Jackie Neckels, notes were taken by James Ingram)
One, or both, managers attended all interviews. Field Manager Rem Hawes / AFNM Manager Amanda James

APPENDIX B – CULTURAL RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS PROPOSED CHANGES

Site name(s)	Current allocation in RMP	Recommended allocation	Justification
Anderson Mill Site	Allocated to scientific use to be documented for its values as a unique 20th century industrial facility.	Allocate to public use (moderate) in addition to scientific use	Site has been impacted by metal scrappers. Important features have been removed and moderate public use would allow for interpretation and further management.
Badger Pueblo	Low use SCRMA	Allocate to public use (moderate use SCRMA)	This site is already heavily visited by the public and would benefit from interpretation.
1891 Schoolhouse on AFNM	None	Allocate to public use (high)	This site has not been previously allocated and should open to visitation and interpretation.

APPENDIX C – RIPARIAN REPORTS FOR BRADSHAW-HARQUAHALA AND AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT RMPs

PART 1 – Eligibility		
1.1	Name of Resource Management Plan (RMP)	Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan
1.2	Date of Record of Decision (ROD)	4/22/10
1.3	Date of Evaluation	4/27/15
1.4	Name of Lead Evaluator	Codey Carter
	Yes/No	Text Answer
1.5	Was the RMP, or an RMP Amendment, ROD signed after 2000?	Yes Comments: Yes, the ROD was signed on April 22, 2010.
1.6	Does the RMP <u>contain</u> goals and objectives related to riparian resources? If Yes, proceed to PART 2. If No discuss and summarize in the comment cell why this RMP does not contain riparian goals and objectives.	Yes Comments: The goals and objectives are included below. RP-1 – Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of stream banks dominated (>50 percent) by native species from the genera Scirpus, Carex, Juncus and Eleocharis. The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be >15 percent seedlings, >15 percent mid-size, and >15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential) LH-2 – Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition LH-3 – Productive, diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.
If the response to either question 1.5 or 1.6 is 'No', completing the remainder of this worksheet is optional.		

PART 2 - Stressors and Workload Drivers

Stressors

In the space below, list the major stressors that are impacting riparian resources covered by this RMP. Many stressors may be considered during the interdisciplinary team discussion, though this worksheet asks that you record the top 3

2.1.1 Livestock grazing

2.1.2 Off-highway vehicles

2.1.3 Invasive non-native species (primarily tamarisk)

Emerging Stressors and Issues

In the space below, list emerging or future stressors that are not adequately addressed in this RMP, if applicable.

2.2.1

2.2.2

2.2.3

Activities Impacting Workload

List 3 activities that are having the most significant impact on this FO priorities (Tip - Think about primary activities and benefitting program e.g. clearances for O&G or for renewable energy projects, or Land Health Assessments for grazing permit renewals, etc.)

	Activity	Benefiting Program
2.3.1	Livestock grazing permit renewals	Range
2.3.2	Travel management	Recreation
2.3.3	Mineral Material Sales	Minerals

PART 3 - Implementation and Effectiveness of Riparian Actions

In the space below, list 5 significant riparian actions (e.g. vegetation treatments, on-the-ground activities) that have been implemented since the ROD was signed. Evaluate the effectiveness of these actions (choose yes or no from the drop down box) and list the data sources to validate your conclusion. If no actions have been implemented, skip to Part 3.3.

	Action Description	Effective	Monitoring/Effectiveness Data Source(s)
3.1.1	Closure of the Agua Fria River to motorized vehicles in the Table Mesa planning area - which includes building and maintaining numerous vehicle barriers	Yes	Vegetation monitoring, photos
3.1.2	Pole planting willow trees along the Agua Fria River in the Table Mesa Planning Area	No	Site visits/photos (see 3.2 below)
3.1.3	Grazing decision on the Buckhorn allotment to restrict the season of use in riparian habitat along Buzzard Roost Creek to winter-only	Unknown	It is too early to tell if this action was effective. The decision was signed in the first quarter of 2015. Monitoring for effectiveness will take place at the end of this growing season.
3.1.4	Proposed action in the Sky Arrow complex of grazing allotments permit renewals to restrict the season of livestock use in riparian habitat along the Hassayampa River to	Unknown	Yet to be implemented. The Decision Records for these permit renewals are scheduled to be signed in FY 2015. Monitoring will follow the issuance of the grazing permit.
3.1.5	Proposed action in the JV Bar allotment grazing permit renewal to restrict the season of livestock use in riparian habitat along the Hassayampa River to winter-only	Unknown	Yet to be implemented. The Decision Records for these permit renewals are scheduled to be signed in FY 2015. Monitoring will follow the issuance of the grazing permit.
3.2	Were any of the above actions unsuccessful because of events beyond your control (i.e. fire, flood, etc.)? If Yes, indicate which action(s) and describe. Proceed to PART 4.	Yes	Explanation: For action 3.1.2 (pole planting willow trees): A 40,000 cfs flood event occurred in the summer of 2014 that scoured out the recently planted trees along the Agua Fria River.
3.3	If no riparian actions have been implemented since the ROD was signed, explain why.		Explanation:

PART 4 – Riparian Planning Decisions and Actions

Linking Actions to RMP Objectives

Implementation actions should be undertaken in an effort to move the riparian resource toward meeting condition objectives and associated goals, as described in the RMP. The actions from Part 3 (3.1.1-3.1.5) will auto-fill below. Identify and list which RMP resource area(s), RMP objective(s), and RMP goal(s) each action is tied to.

It may also be beneficial to list all other objectives and associated RMP goals related to riparian resources, even if none of the specific actions listed above in 3.1.1-3.1.5 relate. Additional lines are provided to list other objectives. You are encouraged to record RMP objectives and goals relating to varying resources, e.g. riparian, fisheries, recreation, grazing, oil and gas, etc.

If an action cannot be tied to one of the objectives or goals defined in the RMP, please explain why in Part 4.2. For example, if there is not an objective and associated goal in the RMP that the action can be tied to, record whether the RMP is deficient in describing appropriate goals and objectives related to riparian resources or if the action should not have been implemented given the goals and objectives defined in the RMP.

	Action Description (Auto-filled from lines 3.1.1-3.1.5 above)	Resource Area	RMP Riparian Objective(s)	RMP Goal
4.1.1	Closure of the Agua Fria River to motorized vehicles in the Table Mesa planning area which includes building and maintaining numerous vehicle barriers	Travel Management Wildlife	<p>TM-9. Cross-country travel is prohibited away from existing, inventoried routes.</p> <p>WF-4. Emphasize and give priority to managing priority species and priority habitats in the event of conflicts between resource management objectives. Priority habitats include areas allocated as WHAs (for example, bighorn sheep habitat), ACEC's, riparian areas, springs, bat roosts, and desert tortoise habitat.</p> <p>WF-16. The evaluation of vehicle routes, in conjunction with the route designation process, will consider the effect of routes on wildlife habitat values. Routes that conflict with maintaining sensitive wildlife habitat will be mitigated to achieve DFC. Mitigation will include, but not be limited to the following: route closure, seasonal use restrictions, rerouting, vehicle type restrictions, vehicle speed restrictions, and other mitigation suitable to the nature of the conflict.</p>	<p>LH-2. Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition. LH-3. Productive, diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.</p>

4.1.2	Pole planting willow trees along the Agua Fria River in the Table Mesa Planning Area	Vegetation Management	<p>RP-1. Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of stream banks dominated (>50 percent) by native species from the genera <i>Scirpus</i>, <i>Carex</i>, <i>Juncus</i>, and <i>Eleocharis</i>. The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be >15 percent seedlings, > 15 percent mid-size, and > 15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential).</p> <p>LH-2. Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.</p> <p>LH-3. Productive, diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.</p>	VM-1. Maintain, restore, or enhance the diversity, distribution, and viability of populations of native plants, and maintain, restore, or enhance overall ecosystem health.
4.1.3	Grazing decision on the Buckhorn allotment to restrict the season of use in riparian habitat along Buzzard Roost Creek to winter-only	Rangeland Management (GM) Riparian (RP) Land Health (LH)	<p>RP-1. Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of stream banks dominated (>50 percent) by native species from the genera <i>Scirpus</i>, <i>Carex</i>, <i>Juncus</i>, and <i>Eleocharis</i>. The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be >15 percent seedlings, > 15 percent mid-size, and > 15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential).</p> <p>LH-2. Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition. LH-3. Productive, diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.</p>	<p>GM-6. Build livestock control fences and alternative water sources where needed to meet natural resource objectives. Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's Handbook on Fencing No. 1741-1.</p> <p>GM-9. Implement grazing management changes as needed to produce riparian areas that are in or making progress toward proper functioning condition. GM-19. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology (e.g. gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity), and functions suitable to climate and landform.</p>

4.1.4	Proposed action in the Sky Arrow complex of grazing allotments permit renewals to restrict the season of livestock use in riparian habitat along the Hassayampa River to winter-only	Rangeland Management (GM) Riparian (RP) Land Health (LH)	<p>RP-1. Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of stream banks dominated (>50 percent) by native species from the genera <i>Scirpus</i>, <i>Carex</i>, <i>Juncus</i>, and <i>Eleocharis</i>. The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be >15 percent seedlings, > 15 percent mid-size, and > 15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential).</p> <p>GM-19. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology (e.g. gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity), and functions suitable to climate and landform.</p> <p>LH-2. Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.</p> <p>LH-3. Productive, diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.</p>	<p>GM-6. Build livestock control fences and alternative water sources where needed to meet natural resource objectives. Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's Handbook on Fencing No. 1741-1.</p> <p>GM-9. Implement grazing management changes as needed to produce riparian areas that are in or making progress toward proper functioning condition.</p>
-------	--	--	--	---

4.1.5	Proposed action in the JV Bar allotment grazing permit renewal to restrict the season of livestock use in riparian habitat along the Hassayampa River to winter-only	Rangeland Management (GM) Riparian (RP) Land Health (LH)	<p>RP-1. Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of stream banks dominated (>50 percent) by native species from the genera <i>Scirpus</i>, <i>Carex</i>, <i>Juncus</i>, and <i>Eleocharis</i>. The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be >15 percent seedlings, > 15 percent mid-size, and > 15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential).</p> <p>GM-19. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology (e.g. gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness, and sinuosity), and functions suitable to climate and landform.</p> <p>LH-2. Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition</p>	<p>GM-6. Build livestock control fences and alternative water sources where needed to meet natural resource objectives. Fence construction and maintenance will follow guidance provided in BLM's Handbook on Fencing No. 1741-1.</p> <p>GM-9. Implement grazing management changes as needed to produce riparian areas that are in or making progress toward proper functioning condition.</p>
4.1.6				
4.1.7				
4.1.8				
4.1.9				
4.1.10				
4.2	<p>If any actions you've provided cannot be tied to an RMP objective and associated goal, explain why.</p> <p>If all actions are tied to RMP objectives and goals, proceed to PART 4.2.</p>			

PART 4 (con't) - Riparian Planning Decisions and Actions		
	Yes/No	Text Answer
<p>4.3 Does this RMP have an implementation strategy for riparian actions?</p> <p>For example, any mechanism(s) for prioritizing actions in the short- and long-term.</p>	No	<p>Comments: No specific riparian implementation strategies have been developed but there was an effort in 2014 to look at the B-H RMP ROD strategic outcomes respective to each resource (including riparian) and prioritize management decisions and prioritize each decision within and across the planning area taking into account the magnitude of the projects.</p>
<p>5.4 Have the implemented actions been effective in making significant progress toward achieving riparian condition goals defined in the RMP?</p>	Yes	<p>Comments: The Land Health Standards that are incorporated into the RMP require management changes if a riparian area is not in proper functioning condition (PFC) or meeting the desired plant community (DPC) objectives. For the Buckhorn, Sky Arrow, Congress-Sky Arrow, and JV Bar allotments, the Hassayampa Field Office (Bradshaw- Harquahala planning area) is implementing similar management prescriptions that have worked successfully on the Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM). The AFNM RMP implemented a winter-only season of use in 2005. Riparian condition improved substantially in all areas where OHVs were successfully excluded from the riparian areas. As grazing permits are renewed in the Hassayampa Field Office, the ID team assesses PFC and sets the DPC objectives. Where riparian areas are not in PFC, or are not meeting the DPC objectives, management changes are made and then monitored to determine if this management prescription is trending the area toward PFC and DPC objectives, or if other changes need to be made. The Hassayampa Field Office implemented a vehicle closure in the Agua Fria River in the Table Mesa planning area. Numerous vehicle barriers were built and are routinely maintained. Riparian vegetation recruitment and cover has increased since the vehicle closure was implemented.</p>

PART 5 - Evaluation Summary			
<i>This represents the conclusion of the evaluation process</i>			
5.5	Name of Resource Management Plan (RMP)	Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan	
5.6	Date of Record of Decision (ROD)	4/22/10	
5.7	Date of Evaluation	4/27/15	
5.8	Name of Lead Evaluator	Codey Carter	
5.9	Review Team Composition		
	Name	Position/Discipline	
5.9.1	Codey Carter	Wildlife Biologist	
5.9.2			
5.9.3			
5.9.4			
5.9.5			
		Date	Signature
5.10	Briefing Date and Field Manager Concurrence	8/27/2015	D. Penigton
5.11	State Riparian Lead Review Date and Concurrence	8/31/2015	Ann Wilson

PART 1 - Eligibility		
1.1	Name of Resource Management Plan (RMP)	Agua Fria National Monument Record of Decision & Approved Resource Management Plan
1.2	Date of Record of Decision (ROD)	4/22/10
1.3	Date of Evaluation	5/12/15
1.4	Name of Lead Evaluator	Paul Sitzmann
	Yes/No	Text Answer
1.5	Was the RMP, or an RMP Amendment, ROD signed after 2000?	Yes Comments: AFNM ROD/RMP signed in 2010
1.6	Does the RMP <u>contain</u> goals and objectives related to riparian resources? If Yes, proceed to PART 2. If No discuss and summarize in the comment cell why this RMP does not contain riparian goals and objectives.	Yes Comments: The goals and objectives are included below: RP-1 - Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of stream banks dominated (>50 percent) by native species from the genera <i>Scirpus</i> , <i>Carex</i> , <i>Juncus</i> and <i>Eleocharis</i> . The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be >15 percent seedlings, >15 percent mid-size, and >15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential) LH-2 - Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition LH-3 - Productive, diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.
If the response to either question 1.5 or 1.6 is No, completing the remainder of this worksheet is optional.		

PART 2 - Stressors and Workload Drivers**Stressors**

In the space below, list the major stressors that are impacting riparian resources covered by this RMP. Many stressors may be considered during the interdisciplinary team discussion, though this worksheet asks that you record the top 3.

2.1.1 Livestock Grazing

2.1.2 Loss of water

2.1.3 Fire

Emerging Stressors and Issues

In the space below, list emerging or future stressors that are not adequately addressed in this RMP, if applicable.

2.2.1

2.2.2

2.2.3

Activities Impacting Workload

List 3 activities that are having the most significant impact on this FO priorities (Tip - Think about primary activities and benefitting program e.g. clearances for O&G or for renewable energy projects, or Land Health Assessments for grazing permit renewals, etc.)

	Activity	Benefiting Program
2.3.1	Livestock Grazing Permit Renewals	Range
2.3.2	Public Outreach	NLCS
2.3.3	Shrub Grassland Treatments	Biology/Range

PART 3 - Implementation and Effectiveness of Riparian Actions

In the space below, list 5 significant riparian actions (e.g. vegetation treatments, on-the-ground activities) that have been implemented since the ROD was signed. Evaluate the effectiveness of these actions (choose yes or no from the drop down box) and list the data sources to validate your conclusion. If no actions have been implemented, skip to Part 3.3.

	Action Description	Effective	Monitoring/Effectiveness Data Source(s)
3.1.1	GM-5 Limit livestock grazing in riparian areas to the winter season (November 1 to March 1).	Yes	Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments (BV) and Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) (MO/ML) assessments indicate the maintenance or improvement in trend in riparian conditions. Compliance of livestock operators are conducted annually (NA)
3.1.2	An OHV barrier was installed at two access points on the Agua Fria River near Cordes Lakes, AZ.	Yes	The Barriers have been largely successful at eliminating OHV use in the Agua Fria River. PFC and MIM assessments indicate upward trend.
3.1.3	Pole planting of native riparian obligate trees and plug planting of native herbaceous species occurred over multiple years with the assistance of youth	Yes	The area of focus was the River Bend area near Cordes Lakes, AZ. PFC and MIM assessments indicate upward trend.
3.1.4	Multiple OHV barriers have been installed to prevent OHV use of riparian areas	Yes	PFC results did not document OHV use as a causal factor for ratings. Barrier maintenance is ongoing.
3.1.5	Started process for data collection needed for federal water right. Stream gauges were installed in 5 locations within the AFNM to collect data needed for the Federal Water Right.	Yes	Number of gauges installed recording water levels and median monthly flow
3.2	Were any of the above actions unsuccessful because of events beyond your control (i.e. fire, flood, etc.)? If Yes, indicate which action(s) and describe. Proceed to PART 4.		Explanation:
3.3	If no riparian actions have been implemented since the ROD was signed, explain why. Proceed to PART 4.		Explanation:

PART 4 – Riparian Planning Decisions and Actions

Linking Actions to RMP Objectives

Implementation actions should be undertaken in an effort to move the riparian resource toward meeting condition objectives and associated goals, as described in the RMP. The actions from Part 3 (3.1.1-3.1.5) will auto-fill below. Identify and list which RMP resource area(s), RMP objective(s), and RMP goal(s) each action is tied to.

It may also be beneficial to list all other objectives and associated RMP goals related to riparian resources, even if none of the specific actions listed above in 3.1.1-3.1.5 relate. Additional lines are provided to list other objectives. You are encouraged to record RMP objectives and goals relating to varying resources, e.g. riparian, fisheries, recreation, grazing, oil and gas, etc.

If an action cannot be tied to one of the objectives or goals defined in the RMP, please explain why in Part 4.2. For example, if there is not an objective and associated goal in the RMP that the action can be tied to, record whether the RMP is deficient in describing appropriate goals and objectives related to riparian resources or if the action should not have been implemented given the goals and objectives defined in the RMP.


Action Description (Auto-filled from lines 3.1.1-3.1.5 above)	Resource Area	RMP Riparian Objective(s)	RMP Goal
--	------------------	---------------------------	----------

4.1.1	GM-5 Limit livestock grazing in riparian areas to the winter season (November 1 to March 1).	Riparian Rangeland Management Vegetation Management	<p>RP-1. Riparian areas will include a plant community that consists of stream banks dominated (>50 percent) by native species from the genera <i>Scirpus</i>, <i>Carex</i>, <i>Juncus</i>, and <i>Eleocharis</i>. The size class distribution of native riparian obligate trees will be > 15 percent seedlings, > 15 percent mid-size, and > 15 percent large size (depending on existing conditions and the site potential). Size classes are defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seedlings are < 1 inch in basal diameter. • Mid-sizes are 1 to 6 inches in basal diameter. • Large sizes are > 6 inches in basal diameter. <p>GM-2 Watersheds are in properly functioning condition, including their upland, riparian, and aquatic components. Soil and plant conditions support infiltration, storage, and release of water that are in balance with climate and landform.</p> <p>GM-3 Ecological processes are maintained to support healthy biotic populations and communities.</p> <p>GM-19. Management practices maintain or promote sufficient vegetation to maintain, improve or restore riparian-wetland functions of energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and stream bank stability, thus promoting stream channel morphology (e.g. gradient, width/depth ratio).</p>	VM-1 Maintain, restore, or enhance the diversity, distribution, and viability of populations of native plants, and maintain, restore, or enhance overall ecosystem health.
4.1.2	OHV barriers were installed at two access points on the Agua Fria River near Cordes Lakes, AZ.	Recreation	See Desired Future Conditions in 4.1.1 and RR-57 Fence the Cordes Lakes area (in T. 11 N., R. 3 E., Section 20) near the Agua Fria River to prevent motorized access and provide for safe vehicle parking.	
4.1.3	Pole planting of native riparian obligate trees and plug planting of native herbaceous species occurred over multiple years with the	Riparian, Wildlife, T&E	See Desired Future Conditions in 4.1.1	VM-1 Maintain, restore, or enhance the diversity, distribution, and viability of populations of native plants, and maintain, restore, or enhance overall ecosystem

4.1.4	Multiple OHV barriers have been installed to prevent OHV use of riparian areas. Areas protected include Badger Wash (2 barriers), Silver Creek (2 Barriers), and Horseshoe Crossing on the Agua Fria River (1 barrier).	Recreation	<p>TM-1. Designate, implement, and monitor a comprehensive travel management network affording a range of high-quality and diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. The network consists of a system of roads, primitive roads, and trails. The designated travel management network and associated recreation opportunities are consistent with all monument resource management objectives, recreation settings, and preservation of monument objects.</p> <p>TM-21. Maintain safe public access, which may include the following: designing and installing needed improvements at low-water crossings, installing vehicle control guards, and enforcing traffic laws and other applicable regulations for visitor safety.</p>	
4.1.5	Started process for data collection needed for federal water right. Stream gauges were installed in 5 locations within the AFNM to collect data needed for the Federal Water Right.	Soil, Water Air	WS-3. Instream water rights are quantified and protected to sustain wildlife, fish, and riparian resources.	
4.1.6				
4.1.7				
4.1.8				
4.1.9				
4.1.10				
4.2	<p>If any actions you've provided cannot be tied to an RMP objective and associated goal, explain why.</p> <p>If all actions are tied to RMP objectives and goals, proceed to PART 4.2.</p>			

PART 4 (con't) – Riparian Planning Decisions and Actions		
	Yes/No	Text Answer
<p>4.3 Does this RMP have an implementation strategy for riparian actions?</p> <p>For example, any mechanism(s) for prioritizing actions in the short- and long-term.</p>	No	<p>Comments: No specific riparian implementation strategies have been developed but there was an effort in 2014 to look at the AFNM ROD/RMP strategic outcomes respective to each resource (including riparian) and prioritize management decisions and prioritize each decision within and across the planning area taking into account the magnitude of other projects.</p>
<p>5.4 Answer the following question based on the results of PART 1, 2, 3, and 4 as the basis for your response</p> <p>Have the implemented actions been effective in making significant progress toward achieving riparian condition goals defined in the RMP?</p>	Yes	<p>Comments: Season of use has been implemented, OHV barriers installed, revegetation actions completed and data collection for water rights initiated.</p>

PART 5 - Evaluation Summary*This represents the conclusion of the evaluation process.*

5.5	Name of Resource Management Plan (RMP)	Agua Fria Record of Decision & Approved Resource Management Plan	
5.6	Date of Record of Decision (ROD)	4/22/10	
5.7	Date of Evaluation	5/12/15	
5.8	Name of Lead Evaluator	Paul Sitzmann	
5.9	Review Team Composition		
	Name	Position/Discipline	
5.9.1	Paul Sitzmann	Wildlife Biologist	
5.9.2	Casey Addy	Natural Resource Specialist	
5.9.3			
5.9.4			
5.9.5			
		Date	Signature
5.10	Briefing Date and Field Manager Concurrence	8/27/15	
5.11	State Riparian Lead Review Date and Concurrence	8/31/15	